

❖GUNSLINGER GAZETTE❖

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CAPTAIN'S CALL



The past three months have been momentous for our nation and USS SAN JACINTO. Our place of employment and range of assignments have been diverse and challenging. Throughout deployed operations, our focus has primarily been in conducting Air Defense Commander responsibilities for the HARRY S TRUMAN Carrier Strike Group and, more recently, have expanded to include the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Carrier Strike Group. Providing the "air umbrella" involves the direct efforts of several divisions and many Sailors aboard SAN JACINTO. Employing our Aegis radar, sharing that radar air picture with other units utilizing our electronic LINK 11 and 16 systems and communicating potential threats via radio circuits were demanding assignments that SAN JACINTO performed superbly. The actions of the Sailors standing these watches were just as ably supported by other SAN JACINTO technicians who maintained this equipment, provided the spare parts,

safely stood the lookout watch, operated the propulsion plant and provided our meals. In short, every SAN JACINTO Sailor played an indispensable role in ensuring this warship performed brilliantly during combat operations.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, we were initially assigned to the Red Sea for Tomahawk strike operations and as Air Defense Commander in the Red Sea.

Our quick repositioning from the European Theater to the Central Command, via the Red Sea and not requiring host nation basing support, was a spectacular example of the inherent flexibility of naval forces. In a matter of a few short days via a transit through the Suez Canal, naval forces were able to reposition in the Red Sea and enable the President and General Franks to employ the one thousand mile strike reach of the Navy's pinpoint accurate Tomahawk weapon system. SAN JACINTO was able to project decisive combat power to aid in influencing the campaign in Iraq. Our operations in the Red Sea were truly fascinating and awe inspiring. In what was probably the most important mission in the 15-year history of this warship, SAN JACINTO participated in multiple strike missions against Iraq. Many strategic and tactical targets were successfully struck -- significantly assisting in preparing the battlefield for the successful introduction of ground forces.

Soon after completion of our strike missions, SAN JACINTO then transited back through the Suez, rejoining Task Force 60 and performing Air Commander responsibilities for the majority of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Throughout this assignment, SAN JACINTO was the only cruiser providing the air defenses for two Carrier Strike Groups, to our knowledge, a Navy first. Fortunately the operation has been very successful and the conflict is winding down. We recently enjoyed a liberty port in La Spezia, Italy, our first port call after 79 consecutive days at sea. Scotland is the next expected port call, followed by an eagerly awaited trans-Atlantic return to our families and friends. We are making preparations now for an exciting "Tiger Cruise" from Mayport, Florida to Naval Station, Norfolk. It has truly been a period of our lives that has bonded us together and we will reflect on with great pride for many years to come. As Commanding Officer, I am very proud of the exceptional efforts of each and every member of this outstanding crew -- they are great young Americans!



VICTORY IS CERTAIN!

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF'S CORNER

We are now into the fifth month of deployment and the crew is definitely maintaining a positive attitude. The scenes onboard USS SAN JACINTO and the rest of the military have mesmerized the entire world as we conduct operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The crew has performed admirably regardless of the assignments. From Strike Missions to conducting Maritime Interception Operations they have performed every task efficiently and most importantly safely.

The Sailor of the Quarter competition was extremely close this month. I would like to congratulate the winners. Our Sailor of the Quarter is CTM1(SW) Samuel Morrison of OT Division, Junior Sailor of the Quarter is OS2(SW) William Earp of OI Division and the Blue Jacket of the Quarter is AEAN John Burkhardt of Air Department. Congratulation goes out to all the fine candidates and keep charging hard you make the SAN JACINTO the formidable unit that it is.



The Family Support Group has been very busy at home as well. They have had a Kid's Halfway Party, Easter Egg Hunt and the Spirit of Norfolk Family cruise. A Pillowcase Banner Party is also planned for 26 April, sounds like fun. I would like to thank Melissa Jones and Sara Visintine for their hard work and creativity on the home front. In addition to the fun family events the FSG has assisted families in need of a helping hand, a hot meal or just someone to talk to. Bravo Zulu and keep up the great work.

We all look forward to the return and embrace of our families when our Missions are complete. I am very proud of my shipmates onboard SAN JACINTO and the families that support them at home. In closing I am **Proud to be an American and a SAN JACINTO Sailor.** God Bless.

Very Respectfully

Ron Bennett

Command Master Chief



CHAPLAIN'S NOTES



AMAZING GRACE

Grace is a word we hear used occasionally. The word is used as a name of some as well as being used in the title of songs. The most important place we see grace mentioned and discussed is in the Scriptures. What exactly does this word mean and what impact does it have on us? The word grace carries with it the meaning of "unmerited favor". Biblically defined grace is the favor God gives in salvation to those who receive him (Eph 2:8). It is what we need most of all from God. This grace God bestows through Jesus to all who trust him for forgiveness of their sins and eternal life. (John 3:16) ☞

Grace is something we receive and should be willing to share with others around us. We all need to practice grace in our lives by turning the other cheek, returning good for evil, and forgiving liberally. We can preach no better sermon of God's love than to demonstrate to others, the love of God by how we act.

The greatest hymn ever written is appropriately enough written about grace. It was written by a former slave trader in 18th century England who was converted to Christ. Many know not of this man, but many know his song.

AMAZING GRACE

-Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!



*That saved a
wretch like me.
I once was lost
but now am
found;
Was blind but
now I see.*

*-'Twas grace that
taught my heart to*

*fear,
and grace my
fears relieved.
-How precious did that
grace appear
The hour I first believed!
-Through many danger,
toils and snares I have
already come.
'Tis grace has brought
me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me
home.
-When we've been there
ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the
sun;
We've no less days to
sing God's praise
Than when we first be-
gun!*

XX DIVISION



Things continue to roll along smoothly on the Administration Front. Another successful Advancement Examination cycle has been completed, and we look forward to promoting several sailors in the coming months. The ship has once again been placed on the Retention Honor Roll thanks to the diligent efforts and some creative Career Counseling from NC1(SW/AW) Bridges. SAN JACINTO is also ensured of receiving the coveted Golden Anchor Award.

YN3(SW) Coss has been helping out in the Engineering Log Room since the beginning of the cruise. He's ensured all administrative paperwork and filing in the Engineering Department has been brought up to speed and maintained correctly. The Ships Office has been busy receiving, correcting and sending up End of Deployment awards for the crew which have been taken care of by YN1(SW) Bobzien and YN3(SW) Mason. Sea Service Deployment Ribbons were added to over 390 personnel service records during the month of March by YN2(SW) Horn, PN2 Skinner, YN3(SW) Randall and YN3 Velasquez. PN2 Skinner has also been working hard all cruise, detaching 15 ships personnel and receiving over 5 new personnel, while training SN Hinton (Personnelman Striker) on the PN rating. SN Hinton has been a welcome addition to the Ships office.

Congratulations are also in order for YN2(SW) Horn and YN3(SW) Coss for earning their Enlisted Surface Warfare pins, and to PNC(SW) Sprouse for his reenlistment to continue his Naval career.

XM DIVISION



The past quarter proved to be a challenging time period for the Medical department. After completing the initial round of Anthrax vaccinations, medical was tasked with administering Smallpox vaccinations to the entire crew. This ended up being a major evolution since each member of the crew had to complete a briefing and then complete two screening forms, one before the vaccination, and one after. As usual, HMCS Staples, HM3 Morehouse, and BM3 Young were able to complete this evolution with flying colors. This quarter Medical was informed that the command was awarded the Green "H" Award that recognizes individual units for maintaining excellent health promotion and wellness programs.

Congratulations is also in order for HM3 Morehouse who was recently designated a Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. With our impending return to homeport, Medical will again be very busy conducting physical examinations, planning audiograms, completing routine immunizations and collecting laboratory specimens.



HM3(SW) Moorehouse giving smallpox vaccination to ET2(SW) Miller as he smiles.

XN DIVISION

Greetings again from the Quartermaster/Signalman team. Since the last issue we have completed a number of tasks requiring long hours and attention to details. Our Navigation team has safely navigated over 14,000 Nautical Miles, including both North and Southbound transits of the Suez Canal. Additionally, we maintained the Navigational situational awareness for numerous operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in both the Mediterranean and Red Sea. Our Signalman have completed frequent and flawless underway replenishments and communicated with multiple warships while maintaining their skills as the Fleet's Finest signal bridge.

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to SM2 (SW) Williams and his family during this time of challenge and trials. Our division and ship displayed the real meaning of togetherness and teamwork as we pulled together to support them.
- Congratulations to our two newest Surface Warfare Specialist: SM3 (SW) Tines and QM3 (SW) Cooper. Great job guys!
- SM3 (SW) Tines was selected as the Navigation Department's representative as Junior Sailor of the Quarter. We could not be more proud.
- QM3 Gibbs qualified as Quartermaster of the Watch. Hats Off!

During a time in which our country is at war, you can be proud of your loved ones and their performance. We appreciate and thank you for your thoughts, prayers and unwavering support. While we continue to operate and execute the orders of the President of the United States we could not do it without you. We will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure our country and it's Allies are victorious. May God bless each of you, all branches of our military, the USS SAN JACINTO and the United States of America.

WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

WA DIVISION



Greetings from the USS SANJACINTO WA DIVISION, We hope that you all are doing fine since the last edition. Unfortunately, we haven't had many port visits to tell you about but as you are probably all aware, we have been doing our part in support of the war effort. We want everyone to know that we are doing fine just missing our love ones back in the states. There has been quite a few developments within the division that I will share with you: First: We would like to say fair winds and following seas to STGC(SW/AW) McGhee who recently was selected to become Chief Warrant Officer and has been assigned to shore duty at NOPF Dam Neck. We also would like to congratulate him and his wife Tonia on the birth of their son Brandon Jr. who was born on Mar 7, 2003 and weighed 6lbs 4 oz. His replacement is STGC(SW) Harrison who comes to us from SUBTRAFAC NORFOLK. Chief Harrison is married with two children. We also want to congratulate STG2(SW)Cadell on the birth of his son, who was born in March, both baby and mother are doing fine. We would like to congratulate the following individuals for their earning the Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification: STG2(SW) Hall, E. STG2(SW) Blondin, STG2(SW) Magnotta, STG3(SW) McClutchy. Also, we would like to congratulate STG1(SW) Waslicki for obtaining his SUWC qualification. We want all of you to know that we love and miss each and every one of you, and even though we are far from home we are never alone as long as our thoughts are of you. We send out a special prayer to those who may have taken ill during the past few months and hope that you will have a speedy recovery. Also, we send out a special prayer to the families of individuals who may have been lost in battle or who are still fighting in IRAQ.



WO DIVISION



GREETINGS FROM WO DIVISION!! As we are nearing the end of our deployment, our spirits are in high gear. We are staying busy so that we don't lose our edge during this time of war..

Congratulations go out GM1 Veal, FC2 Rohmer and GM3 Lott for completing their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualifications. BRAVO ZULU!! to you all.

WO says farewell to GM2 Holt, and welcomes ENS Matthew Percy as our new Ordnance Officer. We know he will be a great asset to WO division and we hope that he has an enjoyable tour as ORDO. Upon arrival to Norfolk we will be saying hello, as well as farewell, to a few people. First, we will saying good bye to GM2(SW) Boerschig, who is transferring to San Diego, CA for 5" instructor duty. Next will be GM1(SW/AW) Lindqvist, who will be retiring to Jacksonville, FL. Then, a hearty welcome aboard will be in order for GM3 Thomas, GMSN Kelley, GMSN Wilkerson, GMSN Harris and FC3 Watterson, who are all about to commence their tour on-board SAN JACINTO.

So until we return home, please Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Your inspirational words of encouragement are greatly appreciated. AND KEEP THE CARE PACKAGES COMING!



CF DIVISION



Well friends and families of SAN JACINTO, it's that time again for another Gunslinger Gazette. As always I'm proud to be a part of this fine vessel. As well as working with fine men and women, I've also had the pleasure to know and love them all in this time of our nations need for our service. I want to say on behalf of all of us on SAN JACINTO you have been in our thoughts and our hearts.

It's been a while and a lot has happened, but we have done our jobs well and made our county proud. The ship has held up well and will bring us all home safely, so be prepared for many bear hugs and soft kisses once we step off that brow.

Now on to some other news for CF division- we have several new Surface Warriors. To become a Surface Warrior (earning your Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin), you must expand your knowledge to that of the whole ship, learning about everything from the engines to how we make fresh water. So not to be taken lightly, this pin gives the bearer the high standard of knowledge the SAN JACINTO is known for. Our new surface warriors are FC3 (SW) Steven Isham, FC3 (SW) Shane Waidner, FCSN (SW) Robert McDonald and FC2 (SW) Michael Ellis. We also have many other CF division members that will soon have this esteemed honor. As a whole the division has worked hard and done well. We also have two new additions to CF division. The division proudly welcomes the leadership of Chief Russell Blackburn and LPO FC1 James Sykes. We now only wait for this war to be won and the world to be set right so we can make our grand homecoming that we all look forward to. Until the time for another Gunslinger Gazette arrives I bid you all farewell and remind you that we will all be home soon.

COMBAT SYSTEM

CE DIVISION



CE Division is busy as usual, working hard to ensure the peak performance of all SAN JACINTO's electronics systems. Our equipment includes, but is certainly not limited to, Air and Surface Search Radar systems, Exterior and Interior Communications, Navigation equipment, and the all-important Television Direct to Sailors (satellite TV!). In addition, CE is vital to other electronic divisions in providing Gold Disk and Micro-miniature (2M) repair services by way of superior soldering skills. And last, but certainly not least, CE provides an essential service by managing the test equipment for the entire ship.

CE Division has been working hard for the past four months, maintaining SAN JACINTO's ability to perform her duties throughout the course of the deployment. And that hard work has indeed paid off! Thanks to the efforts of CE Division, SAN JACINTO has been continuously ready and fully capable to easily handle anything thrown our way, something that has been proven time and again, earning our ship praise from prominent sources, including the battle group commander.

There have been some notable recent achievements by CE Division and its members. As a division, we received several outstandings on space cleanliness inspections, the highest score possible. ET2 Deaver earned his ESWS (Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist) designation, and meanwhile others are working diligently to accomplish this same achievement. Super Petty Officer Steve Miller made Second Class, or ET2. Probably one of the biggest and most notable occurrences is that ET2 Leonard smiled! And if that wasn't enough, he did it more than once. But certainly the most important events involving CE Division

were the announcement of two wives back home giving birth. ET3 Smith and ET3 Hunt each a proud new father to a baby boy.

Combat Electronics: If we can't fix it, it ain't broke!!!!

WF DIVISION



WF division has taken their professionalism to the extreme in the last couple of months. With the combined efforts of the VLS (Vertical Launching System) technicians and the Tomahawkers of WF03, a display of "Shock and Awe" uplifted the crew's moral as we participated in the first Tomahawk Cruise Missile strikes on Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is the first Tomahawk tasking that USS SAN JACINTO has seen since Dessert Storm and was executed in an extremely professional manner. The teams tasking was successful in that all missiles left the ship with only one casualty. Thanks to the flawless and detailed upkeep of ATWCS (Advanced Tomahawk Weapon Control System) and VLS, this success was sought out.

WF02, the CIWS (Close In Weapon System) work center, keeps watch as one of the major anti-air defense capabilities during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Making sure operation of the 20mm weapon system is fully capable of doing its job when called upon, PAC (Prefire, Aim and Calibration) Fires have been conducted with unprecedented precision.

WF division is the epitome of the word "Team" as they carry out their everyday routine onboard USS SAN JACINTO.



**TOMAHAWK LAUNCH IN SUPPORT OF
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2003**